

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     In a data communication system having a network, at least one  
2     originating domain through which content can be requested, a content distribution  
3     facility through which the content can be accessed according to defined access  
4     criteria, the access criteria including a location of the originating domain, a location of  
5     the content distribution facility, and a location of the requested content, at least one  
6     authorized user having means for satisfying the access criteria, and at least one  
7     unauthorized user that can not satisfy the access criteria, a method for controlling  
8     access to the content comprising the steps of:

9                     a selected user requesting selected content through the originating  
10    domain, the originating domain providing the selected user with a referral to the  
11    content distribution facility,

12                    the selected user requesting the selected content from the content  
13    distribution facility using the referral and the access criteria,

14                    the content distribution facility verifying whether the access  
15    criteria are present to determine whether the selected user is authorized or  
16    unauthorized, and

17                    allowing the selected user, if authorized, to retrieve the selected  
18    content through the content distribution facility.

19           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the access criteria includes a  
20    password that may be used by one or more of the authorized users.

1                    3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the access criteria includes a  
2 location of a second originating domain.

3                    4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the content is stored in memory.

4                    5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the content is live information.

5                    6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the access criteria is defined by a  
6 station manager administration interface.

7                    7.     The method of claim 6, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
8 of authorized referral domains.

9                    8.     The method of claim 6, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
10 of unauthorized referral domains.

11  
12                    9.     The method of claim 6, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
13 of authorized source reverse domains.

14                    10.    The method of claim 6, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
15 of unauthorized reverse source domains.

- 1                    11.    The method of claim 6, wherein the access criteria can include a  
2    sub-domain of the root domain.
- 3                    12.    The method of claim 12, wherein the content is requested or  
4    exchanged through a secured link, the secured link having an encrypted session via  
5    key exchange.
- 6                    13.    The method of claim 1, wherein the location is an Internet link.
- 7                    14.    The method of claim 1, wherein the referral includes a MIME  
8    tag.
- 9                    15.    A data communication system comprising  
10                    a network,  
11                    at least one originating domain through which content can be  
12    requested,  
13                    a content distribution facility through which the content can be  
14    accessed according to defined access criteria, the access criteria including a location  
15    of the originating domain, a location of the content distribution facility, and a location  
16    of the requested content,

1 at least one authorized user having means for satisfying the  
2 access criteria, and at least one unauthorized user that can not satisfy the access  
3 criteria,

4 wherein a selected user requests selected content through the  
5 originating domain, the originating domain providing the selected user with a referral  
6 to the content distribution facility,

7 the selected user requests the selected content from the content  
8 distribution facility using the referral and the access criteria,

9 the content distribution facility verifies whether the access  
10 criteria are present to determine whether the selected user is authorized or  
11 unauthorized, and

12 the selected user, if authorized, is allowed to retrieve the selected  
13 content through the content distribution facility.

14 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the access criteria includes a  
15 password that may be used by one or more of the authorized users.

16 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the access criteria includes a  
17 location of second originating domain.

18 18. The system of claim 15, wherein the content is stored in memory.

1           19.    The system of claim 15, wherein the content is live information.

2           20.    The system of claim 15, wherein the access criteria is defined by  
3 a station manager administration interface.

4           21.    The system of claim 20, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
5 of authorized referral domains.

6           22.    The system of claim 20, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
7 of unauthorized referral domains.

8           23.    The system of claim 20, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
9 of authorized source reverse domains.

10          24.    The system of claim 20, wherein the access criteria includes a list  
11 of unauthorized source reverse domains.

12          25.    The system of claim 20, wherein the access criteria can include a  
13 sub-domain of the root domain.

1                   26.    The system of claim 15, wherein the content is requested or  
2    exchanged through a secured link, the secured link having an encrypted session via  
3    key exchange.

4                   27.    The system of claim 15, wherein the location is an Internet link.

5                   28.    The system of claim 15, wherein the referral includes a MIME  
6    tag.